METRO / A23

2 shootout victims–Asia brewery exec, driver–not part of Waray robbery gang

LIFESTYLE / E4

Sen. Panfilo Lacson endorses facial care, says he's losing 'No. 11 wrinkles,' and without Botox

ENTERTAINMENT / G6

Only in Hollywood: Susan Sarandon talks of Imelda Marcos, Doris Duke

Colonel found dead with gunshot wound in head

By Nikko Dizon and Julie M. Aurelio

THE BODY OF A REMEDIALIZED COLONEL has been found in the Army headquarters with a gunshot wound in the head, and police investigators are talking suicide.

According to a report received by the Army at around 8:30 a.m. yesterday, Col. Roberto Caldera, 48, was found lifeless in his quarters in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said.

COLONEL A17

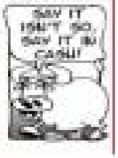
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, April 25, 2008 ★★ 12 sections / Vol. 23 / No. 137 ₱18 website: www.inquirer.net

Praise as good as cash, say Japan researchers

CHICAGO—PAYING people a compliment appears to activate the same reward center in the brain as paying them cash, Japanese researchers said on Wednesday.



PRAISE A14

Pentagon lost $100M to US vets scam in RP

Greenpeace to gov't: Stop sale of US rice with GMO

By Jocelyn R. Uy

RICE "CONTAMINATED" WITH an unauthorized genetically modified organism (GMO) has reached the tables of Filipino households, the environmental group Greenpeace yesterday said.

Greenpeace called on the government to stop selling to the public the 44,000 metric tons of long grain rice it imported from the United States two months ago, saying that the rice variety could be contaminated with GMO rice LL601.

In a statement issued last month, the National Food Authority (NFA) said it had already cleared the 44,000 tons of rice shipments from the United States as free from GMOs.

Although there are no scientific studies yet proving the ill effects of GMOs on human

GREENPEACE A18



NO CRISIS HERE Thank God for mother's milk, always there for the taking, and for free. It is priceless even as the global food crisis deepens. A 6-month-old baby boy drinks it up while his 2-year-old sister has had her fill and stretches out on a bench, her face a picture of contentment.

Filipino doctor arrested in Guam

MADISON, WISCONSIN—The US military's health insurance program has been swindled out of more than $100 million over the past decade in the Philippines, where doctors, hospitals and clinics have conspired with American veterans to submit bogus claims, according to prosecutors and court records.

Seventeen people have been convicted so far—including at least a dozen US military retirees—in a little-noticed investigation that has been handled by federal prosecutors out of Wisconsin because a Madison company holds the contract to process many of the claims. It has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

Health care providers in the Philippines filed claims for medical services never delivered, inflated claims by as much as 2,000 percent and shared kickbacks with retirees who played along, court records reviewed by The Associated Press show.

One of those arrested was Dr. Diogenes Dioniedo, who ran a

PENTAGON A7

Gay groups up in arms over priest's rectal swipe

By TJ Burgonio

THE GAY COMMUNITY IS UP in arms over Msgr. Achilles Dakay's statement that a homosexual act was the root cause of the scandalous video of a rectal surgery in Cebu City that ended up on the YouTube.

The patient who calls himself Danilo is seeking P5 million in moral damages and P5 million in exemplary damages.

"It's odd that the victim is being blamed for what hap-

GAY GROUPS A11

Rice, meat prices down at 'bagsakan' centers

By Amy R. Remo

SOME 470,000 FAMILIES NAtionwide are now buying rice, meat and other basic commodities, which are at least 10 percent cheaper than those sold at wet markets and retail outlets, through the Department of Agriculture's barangay bagsakan centers.

Pan de sal (the breakfast fare of Filipinos) and loaf bread are also now available at bagsakan centers in Metro Manila.

The bagsakan centers are open to everyone. No access cards or any requirements are needed to purchase goods from the centers.

Thirty bagsakan centers (formerly known as barangay food terminals) in Metro Manila are directly serving 412,900 families and 34 centers in other regions are catering to 55,448 families, according to the agriculture department.

There are currently 25 bagsakan centers for farm produce nationwide, where farmers can directly sell their goods so they can reduce trading costs.

These two types of bagsakan centers are particularly essential today amid the soaring prices of basic commodities.

Drawn from the "Hovering Palengke" concept, the bagsakan centers have been put up to ensure the sufficient supply and stable prices of goods, by slashing the number of trade layers that pad the cost of transporting products from the farm gate to their final distribution points.

Often, farm products go through several middlemen before reaching wet markets in

RICE A18





FANCY THAT A customer (left) loads her allotted 1 bag of "extra fancy" rice after shopping at Costco in Calif. Costco, the US' largest warehouse club operator, now limits the amount of rice that can be bought. (Far left) This Filipina hangs on to her allotted bags of cheap NFA rice.

Why RP, home to Irri, is now the world's top rice importer

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

IT IS IRONIC THAT THE PHILippines, home to the International Rice Research Institute and some of the world's best agriculture schools, has become the world's top importer of rice.

The last time the Philippines produced enough of the staple to feed its people was 1994. Since then, the Philippines has been getting rice from other countries to cover for the shortfall and to tide the country over through the lean months of July, August and September.

Domestic palay—unmilled rice—production hit a record 16.24 million metric tons last year despite the midyear dry spell, but it was still not enough.

There are now 88 million Filipinos to feed. Rice and rice products account for 35.37 and 28 percent, respectively, of their energy, protein and iron

WHY RP A6

'Yosi Kadiri' smoked out, QuitsS in

By Tarra Quismundo

YOSI KADIRI HAS PUFFED HIS last.

Meet QuitsS, the dancing and boxing mascot that debuted this week as the clean-cut symbol of the new Quit Smoking Support (QuitsS) program, a workplace-based project hoping for a holistic approach to kicking the habit among employees.

Blue-eyed QuitsS jump-started on Tuesday evening the three-year engagement between its creator, the corporate foundation Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), and nine companies for a customized anti-smoking program.

QuitsS is the flip side of the tarred monster known as Yosi Kadiri that puffed its way into public consciousness in the '90s.

While askew Yosi prompted

YOSI KADIRI A18

Senator says NFA has become cash cow

By Fernando del Mundo

(Second of four parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

Rice crisis

THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY has been accused of inefficiency and corruption that calls for its abolition have been made periodically over the past decade.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, for one, wants to remove importation functions from the state agency charged mainly with ensuring a stable supply of rice at affordable prices.

He says that the NFA has been known as a "cash cow" for corrupt officials and has been hemorrhaging over the years.

Citing a study of the Department of Finance last year, Angara says the NFA has accumulated P131 billion in debts and this is likely to balloon unless the country is able to address a looming rice shortage.

"If we let go of the NFA and give it full rein subsidizing and importing rice, then we will have a bottomless pit that will be hard to fill because it will consume so much of our taxpayers' money," Angara says in an interview with the Inquirer.

The NFA was originally called the National Grains Authority formed under one of the first decrees issued by President Ferdinand Marcos shortly after he declared martial law in September 1972.

The nation was just coming out of devastating floods ignited by rains that spanned more than the biblical 40 days and 40 nights that Noah had

SENATOR A6

Second FRONT PAGE

EZ2 | SIX DIGIT | SUERTRES | SUPERLOTTO 6/49

10 13 20 40 42 43

P34,343,496.00

Cheap meds bill faces new kink

Roxas seeks P1-B allocation to import drugs from India



ROXAS

Bill weakened by giving President price-control powers, says solon

AFTER GETTING OVER THE HUMP OF THE "GENERICS ONLY provision," senators and congressmen have to iron out a fresh kink before they can finally put the cheaper medicines bill to bed.

Malaysian peace monitors to start pullout next month

WHAT'S INSIDE

Grudgingly, Comelec agrees to automate

By Dona Pazzibugan

Breakthrough

Senate threat

Palace gives up on Charter change



PIMENTEL



GORDON

Not a priority

Spurring economic growth

Center of power

'IDIOTS' OF THE HOUSE

Miriam retreats, claims she was just having 'pun'



SANTIAGO

No bail for officer

GMA takes a break, goes diving

Teodoro says he'll stay put

Away for 28 years, OFW will be home soon – in a box

Militants oppose CARP extension



JMSU probe waiting for Mikey

Pentagon lost $100M to US vets scam in RP

Costs to US taxpayers

Dionisio case

NBI cooperating with US

Few controls

Tricare beneficiaries

'I did it for fun'

Guilty plea

Metro's 'poorest' will have rice cards next week, says DSWD

'Bottom-poor'

Priority areas

Where available

Rice shortage fears hit US; stores limit grains sales

4 bags per customer

Food riots

7 pieces of 'pan de sal' sell for P12 at 'bagsakan' stores

Senator says NFA has become cash cow with P111B in debts

ADB wants NFA phased out

Very lucrative business

Consistent program urged

Strict monitoring

Why RP, home to Irri, is now the world's top rice importer

Bigger cause for concern

No choice but buy at any price

Catching up

Price of agri neglect

Emergency package

2010 target

OAKWOOD TRIAL

There was no coup, Biazon tells court

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE JULY 2003 FAILED COUP, ALSO known as the Oakwood mutiny, does not qualify as a coup d'etat, particularly when compared with the 1987 and 1989 rebel uprisings, opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon claimed yesterday.

Biazon, a former Armed Forces chief, took the stand at the resumption of the coup d'etat trial of 22 junior officers, calling themselves the Magdalo group, who seized the Oakwood Premier hotel at the Ayala Center on July 27, 2003.

"If you compare the Oakwood incident to 1987 and 1989, it was not a coup d'etat. He only described Oakwood as a venue for the soldiers to air their gripes," defense lawyer Ernesto Francisco quoted Biazon as saying.

"The senator also recalled that the soldiers did not demand the resignation of the President, but only those of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and Generals Hermogenes Ebdane and Victor Corpus," Francisco said.

Personal opinion

The prosecution said, however, that Biazon's assertion that Oakwood was not a coup was only his personal opinion.

"At best, it is his personal view, a personal opinion. The issue to be determined by the court is whether a coup d'etat took place," state prosecutor Richard Fadullon told reporters.

Fadullon said the 1987 and 1989 coups were not relevant to the case.

"It is far too remote, and it has no connection whatsoever to what happened in July 2003," he said, adding that there was no law on coups d'etat in 1987 and 1989.

Only 17 of the 22 accused showed up at the hearing at the sala of Makati Judge Oscar Pimentel. Sen. Antonio Trillanes, one of the rebel leaders, was again absent from the proceedings which were closed to media.

Officers' grievances

Biazon testified that he was among the first officials to hear the grievances of the junior officers, which he said did not include asking for the resignation of the President.

He was not however part of the government panel that negotiated the surrender of the rebels.

In his testimony, Biazon reportedly pointed out that in 1987 and 1989, the rebel soldiers attacked Camp Aguinaldo, Malacañang and other military installations—an element which he said was missing in the 2003 hotel takeover.

Biazon was the commanding general of the National Capital Region Defense Command during the December 1989 coup, and the commandant of the Marines in 1987.

"He added that he was even quoted in the news after the Oakwood incident that there is no serious attempt to mount a coup because the mainstream military still supports the duly constituted authorities," Francisco said.

Biazon said the soldiers led by Trillanes "were not in a defensive position and were not in a position to attack the government forces surrounding them."

No snipers

"The senator also noted that he saw wires but no explosives at the ends of the wires were covered by cardboard, which to him was unarmed and was merely defensive and never offensive," Francisco said.

The senator also claimed having seen only snipers from the government forces positioned around the Oakwood apartments, but none from the ranks of the rebel soldiers inside the building.

Francisco said Biazon's testimony bolstered the defense argument that a coup d'etat must have two elements—swift attack and the intention of government takeover—which he said did not happen in 2003.

"This is damaging to the prosecution's theory, because Biazon said the soldiers did not mention any government takeover during his one-hour talk with them," Francisco said.

Only 22 mutineers are left to undergo trial after nine pleaded guilty to the crime of coup d'etat and were sentenced on April 8.

Two of the leaders were sentenced to 40 years in prison while seven were given six to 12 years.

The nine have asked for pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo.



Rice, meat prices down at 'bagsakan' centers

Where to find them

Greenpeace to gov't: Stop sale of US rice with GMO; asks gov't to pull it out



Shipped to at least 30 countries

Certified GMO-free

Second time

Rice from Texas, Arkansas

Contamination scandal

Quarantine shipment

Meeting with S&R execs

IN THE KNOW

Golden Rice

Allergic reactions

Gay groups up in arms over priest's swipe at video victim

All about respect

Victim thrice over

Sanctions needed

Hospital liable for rectal video; the 'prostitute' more liable

Doc still training

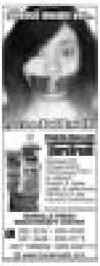
Human relations violation

Libel, mediation

Laughing, but...

Face the music, Palace tells bishop









SC orders charges vs Imelda nephews





The Daily Gospel







China flour importers suspended

[illegible]



MALTREATED OFW Saloma Bakal tells how she got sick after working 21-hour days.



HAPPY TO BE HOME Six maltreated Filipinos express elation as they arrive from Abu Dhabi.

Repatriated OFW tells of 21-hour days in Abu Dhabi

WORKING 21-HOUR DAYS FOR LESS THAN the minimum wage in the Philippines, 26-year-old Saloma Bakal ended up in a hospital within two months of arriving at the Abu Dhabi household that had hired her.

Still weak from her six-day confinement, Bakal arrived yesterday with six other migrant workers who endured abuse in the United Arab Emirates capital.

Of the group, two returned with the help of the employment agency that hired them and five flew home with the help of the Senate President Manny Villar.

It was the second batch of migrant workers that Villar has helped repatriate as part of a continuing "personal crusade" to help reunite distressed overseas Filipino workers to their families.

"I worked until 1 a.m. every day and woke up at 4 a.m. By March, I got sick and vomited blood.... I got to the hospital with the help of Philippine Embassy officials," said Bakal, who left for the Middle East last January.

Blessing

There was just too much work, said Bakal, who had to take care of five children on top of doing the house work for which she was paid P8,000.

Her illness proved to be a blessing as it led to Bakal's liberation. With the help of Philippine consular officers, Bakal was taken to an OFW shelter in Abu Dhabi and finally put on a flight to Manila.

Villar paid for Bakal's plane ticket, as well as those of Lea Malumo, 27, of Camarines Sur, Bernadette Romero, 30, of Cavite, Luzviminda Lumas, 44, of Batangas, and Rosalie Tiberio, 48, of Tagum, Davao del Norte.

The five visited Villar at his Senate office yesterday. The Senate President used the occasion to present to media Senate Resolution 344 that he had filed asking the chamber to conduct a comprehensive review of the implementation of the country's labor recruitment, anti-trafficking and immigration laws.

Two other OFWs arrived yesterday, Nena Pelayo and Lolita Agravey, funded by their recruiters with the help of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration.

Eight OFWs, including six maltreated women, were sent home from Jordan in separate flights on Sunday and Monday, also with help from Villar. *[illegible]*

Calatagan tillers march on to Manila

By [illegible]

FARMERS FROM CALATAGAN, BATANGAS who are protesting the conversion of their lands into a mining area have reached the fourth day of their march to Manila, where they want to bring their plight directly to the national government.

The Calatagan farmers' [illegible] reached Lipa City yesterday afternoon, where supporters from the Church, labor groups and other nongovernment organizations awaited them.

In Lipa, the farmers will be hosted by Archbishop Manuel [illegible] who will celebrate a Mass for them today.

The prelate expressed his support for the farmers even as early as last year and has been actively negotiating with the government on behalf of the farmers. He is expected to issue a pastoral statement on the Calatagan march during the Mass.

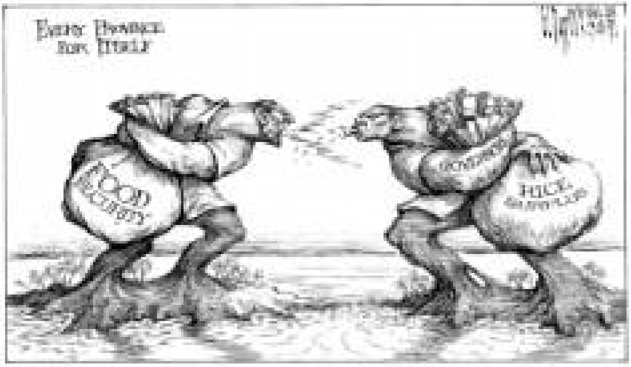


INQUIRER

OPINION

Losing ground

EDITORIAL



Another broadband scandal at NTC

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

Finally, the tipping point?

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

Strong woman and tinsel men

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila



Green and gold

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan



Emancipating leadership

HIGH BLOOD

Minyong Ordoñez

Did he or didn't he?

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



The 'Bolante enigma'

Rice importation: Embarrassing, indeed!

LETTERS

Small village is big name in illegal drugs

Don't stop Fr. Fernando Suarez



Rosauro: a true David

PCSO asked to make more people happy

Colonel found dead . . .

Mindanao parish willing to help distribute rice but no GMOs

'Yosi Kadiri' smoked out, QuitsS in



THE FLIPSIDE OF 'KADIRI'

All options harnessed

Contribution to wellness

Where freedom ends

Smoking bans bad for bingo nights

Cancer fund

Profound effect

Praise as good . . .

Biological basis

'Need to belong'

Hard-wired for hierarchy

Rice prices falling in Luzon, Visayas

RICE PRICES ARE starting to fall as good harvests and government importation bring in supplies of the staple food.







Oversupply

No shortage

Isabela harvest

Competition







Jolo leaders sign zone of peace pact

DepEd exec says bidding for Teachers' Camp clean





BORACAY'S STINK

PCSO rushes to aid STL outlet raided on 'jueteng' reports

Panlilio insists on power to appoint cop chief

Include top DPWH execs in lamppost scam raps, Ombudsman told

NEWSBRIEFS

DAVAO CITY

Port becomes 4th busiest in country



SASA Port

10 warehouses checked for rice hoarding

COTABATO CITY

Administration picks incumbent gov as bet

TAGUM CITY

NPA kills militiaman, wounds soldier in raid

TACLOBAN CITY

DOH to strengthen disease monitoring

DIGOS CITY

Cops pursue new lead in Davao del Sur murder

Aplus METRO

Editor Ever G. Dipasupil

DID YOU KNOW

IN THE academic year 2005 to 2006, Metro Manila had the highest number of public schoolteachers among all the regions—29,000 in the elementary level and more than 17,000 in the high school level.

Cyril Bonabente, Inquirer Research

2 shootout victims not suspects, say cops

Brewery employees caught in battle vs alleged rob gang members



COOL COMFORT
A boy shields himself from the fierce afternoon sun behind an ice cream cart while waiting for his mom who has lined up to buy cheap rice from a government warehouse in Quezon City

By Tina G. Santos and Alcuin Papa

TWO OF EIGHT MEN KILLED WEDNESDAY DURING an alleged shootout in Del Pan, Tondo were not members of the notorious Waray-Waray robbery gang, the Manila Police District clarified yesterday.

The MPD also maintained yesterday that the shootout was not a rubout.

Supt. Jose Maria Espino, Moriones police station chief, said Rolando Natividad, around 50, operations manager of Asia Brewery, and Victor Constantino Cayari, 30, driver/mechanic, were on board a white Isuzu pickup cruising along the northbound lane of Del Pan Bridge—opposite where the alleged robbers were—when they were caught in the crossfire.

Quoting a witness, Espino said one of the suspects apparently tried to commandeer the victims' pickup in an attempt to escape. He added that it appeared that Natividad and Cayari got off their vehicle to avoid the gun battle.

Another bystander, Elizaldo Casarena, 33, of Chicago Street, Pandacan, Manila, was hit in the right thigh by a stray bullet.

Though he said the incident was a legitimate operation, Espino said an investigation was still underway to determine who shot the civilian victims. At least 18 policemen were involved in the operation.

In a television interview, Natividad's daughter, Carla, asked the police for a full investigation to determine who shot her father.

Chief Supt. Roberto Rosales apologized yesterday to the families of Natividad and Cayari. He said it was unfortunate that civilians were caught in the middle of a crossfire between policemen and suspected robbers.

Rosales said he ordered an autopsy on the two civilians to determine who fired the fatal shots. "We're also focused on determining the identity of the other suspects and checking their criminal records," Espino added. Two of the six alleged gang members who died in the incident were identified as Rody Sangil, between 30-35 years old, and Romuel Luciano, 44. Espino said a seventh suspect managed to escape and was now being hunted.

Recovered from the slain suspects were various firearms and ammunitions, including magnum .357, Peam, .38 caliber pistol, .45 caliber, M16 Thompson and a hand grenade.

The suspects had been under surveillance after it was found that they could have been involved in numerous heists, including the P300,000 robbery that victimized a rice dealer in Divisoria.

Police said they received information that the gang would stage a robbery in a gas station near the Manila Road, prompting them to set up a dragnet at the foot of the Pan Bridge.

A van matching the description of the suspects' vehicle approached the bridge. Police ordered the driver to stop but were ignored, resulting in a running gun battle, police said. A running gun battle ensued with four suspects killed on the spot. Two others, along with the two civilian victims died while undergoing treatment in the hospital.

QC to convert 8 markets into mixed-use buildings

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE QUEZON CITY GOVERNMENT is planning to rehabilitate its eight public markets by turning them into mixed-use medium-rise buildings.

The city's Market Development and Administration Department (MDAD) has proposed the major expansion of the public markets in Kamuning, Project 2, Project 4, Roxas, San Jose, Murphy, Galas, and San Francisco del Monte.

The MDAD said the city's public markets had been in existence for 32 years and were now deteriorating and badly in need of repairs.

It added that growing populations required the expansion of the public markets.

Under the MDAD proposal, four-story mixed-use buildings will rise on the old public market sites.

The new establishments will have basement parking, wet and dry markets, food chains and shops in the second floor, and offices or residential units.

MDAD chief Noel Lim said in a statement that the conversion would not only improve the physical conditions of the public markets but also generate income for the city.

Based on current stall rates, he said the proposed project could generate an additional revenue of P20-P25 million from rentals and business taxes.

Under the old Market Code of the defunct Metro Manila Commission, monthly stall rents ranged from P50 to P70 per square meter.

Lim said the rates were now "unrealistic."

The eight public markets currently maintain 1,754 stall holders.

NBI arrests two suspected gunrunners



Gawad Kalinga's Meloto leads 2008 Forward Taguig awardees

Tracking system still a go — NCRPO

Binay to seek writ of habeas data

Police to use 'dragnet' to reduce crime

METROBRIEFS

Morgue for mishap victims proposed in QC

Suspect in swindle case nabbed

Optometrists to hold 60th nat'l convention

Murder raps filed vs suspect in Dalaig killing



PETRAEUS TAKES MIDEAST

Humans nearly became extinct 70,000 years ago, says study

UK teachers hold first nat'l strike in 20 years

Israel willing to give up Golan–Syrian minister

Carter: Condoleezza Rice 'not telling truth'



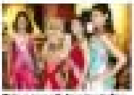
Israel braces for fallout from US spy case







INQUIRER celebrates Cannes Lions 2008 festival at Ayala Museum

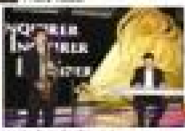




SISTER ACT









The WORLD

Clinton raises millions after Pennsylvania victory



CLINTON

Video links North Korea to Syria reactor, says US

WASHINGTON—US INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS WILL show members of Congress a videotape and other evidence supporting their case that Syria was building a nuclear reactor with North Korean assistance before it was bombed by Israeli planes in September 2007, a US official said.

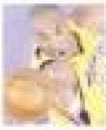
WHAT'S INSIDE



■ Big City sustains Palaro splurge /A32

SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres   Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa



■ Bryant scores 49, Lakers go up 2-0 /A20

Sparks tie Medics; Bacchus on a high



HAPEE'S Larry Rodriguez pops a shot off Bacchus' Mark Borboran in yesterday's second-half action.



ROMMEL Alcano gets the better of pal Roberto Gomez.

Alcano gains Last 8; Orcollo faces Kiamco

BMW Asian Open: Lascuña, Rosales fire 72s

Big City sustains Palaro splurge

By Jose Navarro

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—NATIONAL Capital Region athletes again struck hard in athletics and swimming while keeping its championship aspirations in other fronts afloat yesterday in the 2009 Palarong Pambansa here.



CENTRAL Luzon's high jumper clears the bar to bag the gold in the secondary boys' high jump.

BATTLE OF BACOLOD

Side events fire off All-Star Week

By Musong R. Castillo



TWO-TIME Slam Dunk champ KG Canaleta soars PBA history.



PBA commissioner Sonny Barrios and Bacolod Mayor Evelio Leonardia lead the PBA stars in yesterday's tree-planting activity at the Bacolod City Hall.

C'bato pugs want unbeaten Morales



MORALES

Alcano gains Last 8

SPORTSWATCH

Makati derby features 50 matches

Pasay 5-cocker gets under way today

Round 2 of Summertime fires off at PSG

Powerful sweep by Aguilar



Monte Carlo: Federer dodges upset axe; Nadal ousts Ancic



ROGER Federer

Bryant scores 49, Lakers go up 2-0

Celtics win; Pistons, Sixers tie series



LAKERS guard Kobe Bryant puts up a shot against the Nuggets

Pistons 105, 76ers 88

Celtics 96, Hawks 77

Field after So streak as Battle of GMs begins today



TORRE



SO



SOME of the main winners of the Prima Pasta badminton open

ITU Subic Int'l Triathlon fires off May 10

Villanueva-Dimarucot tops Prima badminton



FISCHER ESTATE CLAIM. Grandmaster Eugenio Torre (right) assists Marilyn Young

Condes vows to keep crown

SPORTS

UV tandem forges vital clash vs SU

By Francis T. J. Ochoa



Night matches for Petron beach volley today

Tagaytay, Wack Wack ladies lead Fed League golf rivals

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Zubiri urges GMA** to sack chief of NBB /B2
- **BSP rates** unchanged /B3

BUSINESS



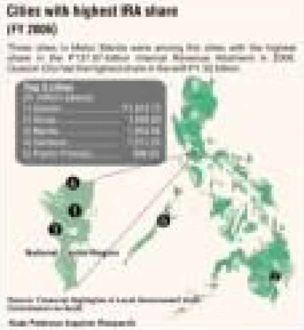
RP deficit position improves by 14.5%

At P51.6B, Q1 budget gap way below gov't target

THE GOVERNMENT'S CASH BUDGET DEFICIT IN the first quarter came in at P51.6 billion, 14.5 percent better than the target set for the period, leading Finance Secretary Margarito Teves to believe [illegible]

INQUIRER MONITOR

Cities with highest IRA share



NFA budget gap seen to reach record ₱43B

[illegible]

CURRENCIES

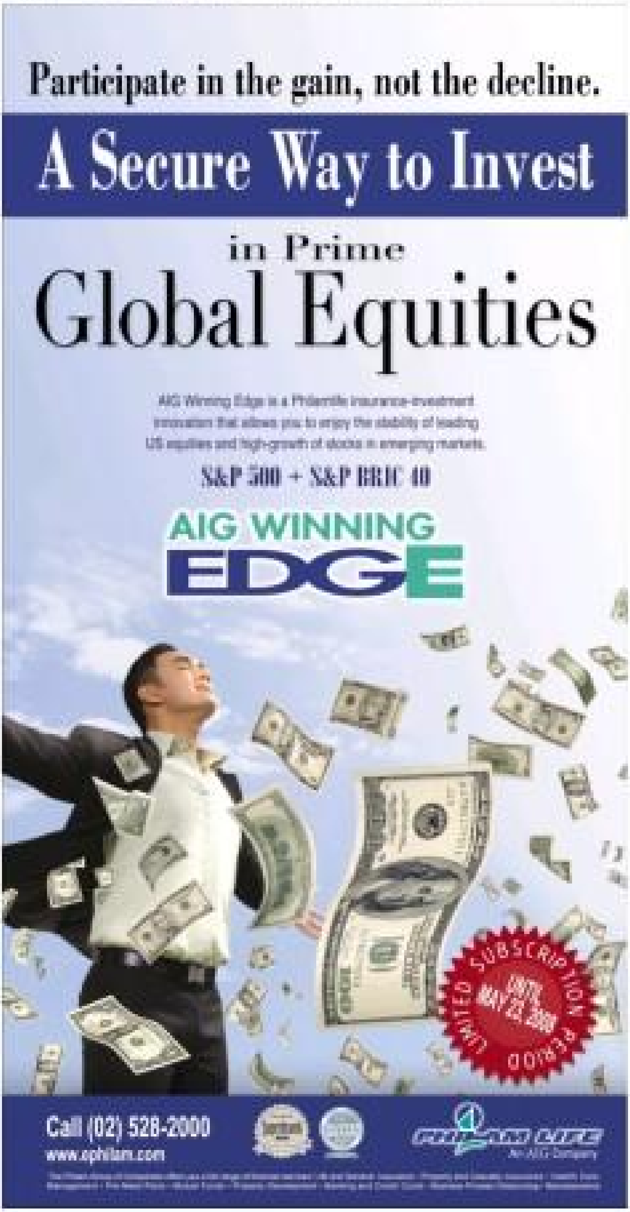


STOCK MARKET

Stocks rise on technical rebound



[illegible]



RP skin cancer cure on way to Canada

Zubiri urges GMA to sack chief of the National Biofuels Board

DOE undersecretary not right man for the job, senator says


ZUBIRI

Underinvestment in agriculture hurting RP

COMMENTARY

Congressional hearing

Analysis

Relationship to rice

YEAR	AFMA CASH to DA	DA TOTAL (AFMA + Regular)	DA REGULAR*	DA DESIRED DA TOTAL
2001	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2002	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2003	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2004	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2005	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2006	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
2007	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
TOTAL	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
AVERAGE	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

BSP rates unchanged

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS YESterday kept its benchmark interest rates steady, even as rising food and fuel prices are seen driving up the average inflation rate this year beyond its maximum target of 5 percent.

Ending a series of interest rate cuts since late 2007, the BSP's policymaking Monetary Board maintained its overnight borrowing rate at 5 percent and the overnight lending rate at 7 percent, in line with market expectations.

"Depending on the movements in oil and non-oil commodity prices, inflation could settle above the 2008 inflation target range," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said in a press briefing.

But the BSP chief said the rise in consumer prices next year would still likely be on track with its 2.5 to 4.5 percent target range.

"We have to be neutral at this point because of the uncertainty in the magnitude of wage adjustments," BSP Deputy Governor Diwa Guinigundo said.

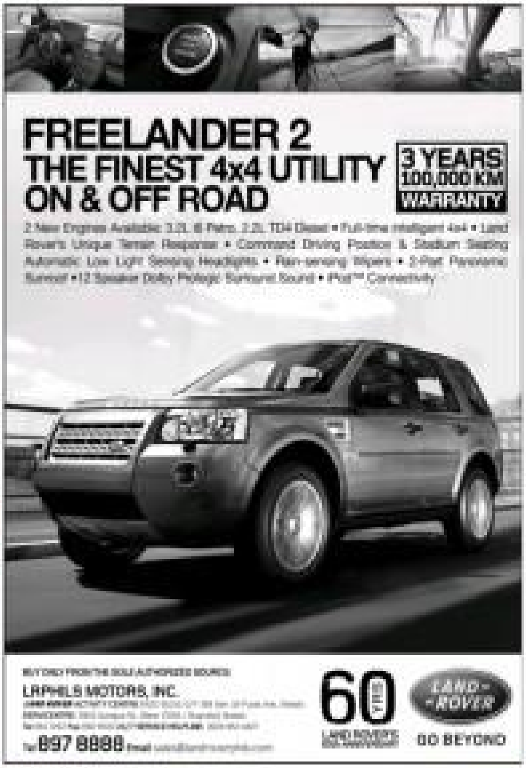
The inflation-targeting central bank has assumed a minimum wage increase of P20 per day equivalent to a 7 percent increase, for this year.

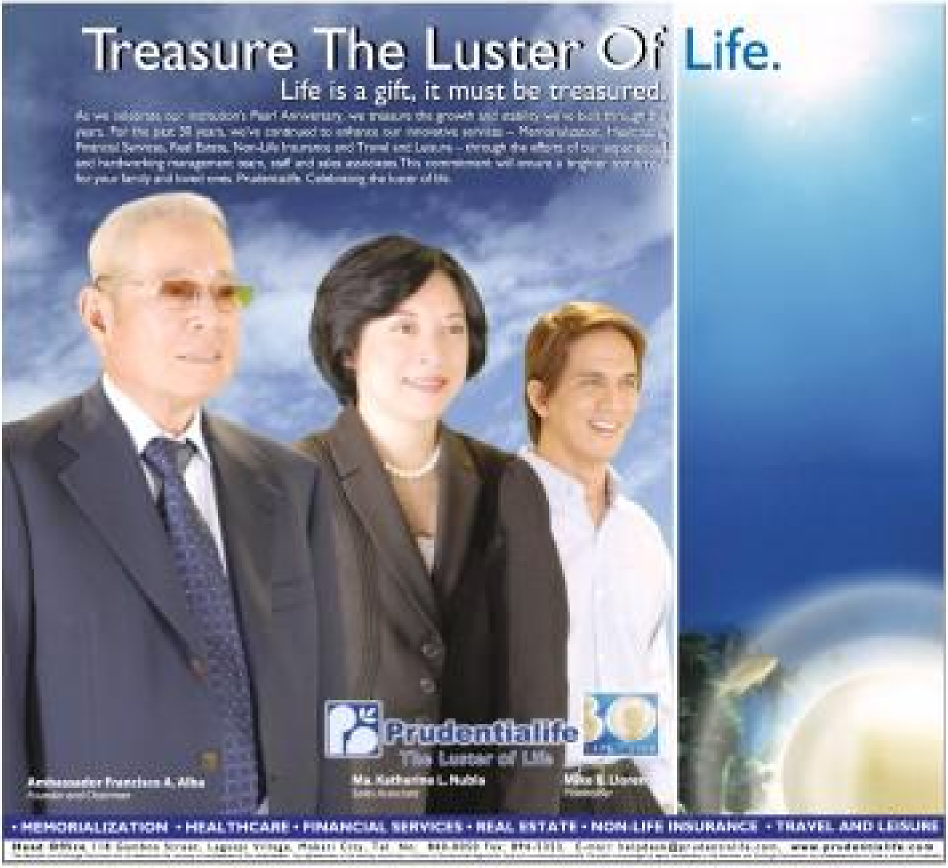
In deciding to keep its interest rates [illegible]

BSP/B3









SM Prime to spend ₱33B for 10-yr expansion plan

ATI eyes 17% profit growth

To boost presence in China

Preferred shares

Corporate Securities Talo



Raul J. Palabrica

Authority

Review

Lesser rights

Taiwan firm invests $30M in Clark

Power firms urged to explain higher rates in April

LandBank offers commodity loan to farmers

RP deficit position improves . . .

NFA budget gap seen . . .

BSP rates unchanged

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY GOVERNOR

SUPERVISION AND EXAMINATION SECTOR

MEMORANDUM NO. M-2008-011

To: All Banks

Subject: FREQUENCY OF SUBMISSION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORTING PACKAGE

Reporting Period	FRP Submission Deadline
31 March 2008	30 May 2008
30 June 2008	29 August 2008
30 September 2008	28 November 2008

For compliance.

(Sgd.) NESTOR A. ESPENILLA, JR.

Deputy Governor

7 March 2008

Republic of the Philippines

Department of Labor and Employment

National Wages and Productivity Commission

REGIONAL TRIPARTITE WAGES AND PRODUCTIVITY BOARD

NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing on the matter of minimum wage adjustment in the National Capital Region is hereby set by the Regional Tripartite Wages and Productivity Board – National Capital Region (RTWPB-NCR) on 13 May 2008, 1:00 p.m. at Ishikawa Hall, Occupational Safety and Health Center (OSHC), OSHC Complex, North Avenue corner Science Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

All interested parties who may wish to present their position/opposition on the matter are enjoined to attend the public hearing and may file their position papers with the Board on or before the schedule date of hearing at the RTWPB-NCR Secretariat Room 11-C, 11th Floor, G.E. Antonino Building, cor. T.M. Kalaw & J. Bocobo Streets, Ermita, Manila or send through telefax number 527-51-59 or e-mail address: wage_ncr@yahoo.com.ph

(Sgd.) RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE

Regional Board Chairperson

Business

US uneasy over ADB policies

[illegible]

Asian stocks get a lift

[illegible]

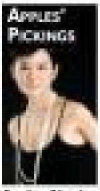
LIFESTYLE

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Contributing Editors: Apples Aberin-Sadhwani and Joanne Epperson

FASHION

APPLES' PICKINGS



Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

You're a man; package yourself

Don't mix your metals—and other career-saving tips

LISTEN UP, MEN.

Here's a little primer to help you dress with more style. Clothes make the man now, more than ever, especially in the workplace.

First impressions last, and how you package yourself can determine how others will assess you in the workplace—say, in a job interview or meeting with clients, or a night-out with friends.

To move with confidence, have a wardrobe that's fashionable and that suits your personality and lifestyle. Clothes are your means of personal expression, within the bounds of appropriateness and dress codes.

Bottom line is, you can look fashionable while showing your unique sense of style. You don't have to be gay or a metrosexual to be well-groomed and dressed impeccably.

Our tips:

■ Update your wardrobe by going through your closet and removing things you don't need. Throw out those ratty socks and underwear. If you haven't worn an item for at least a year, give it to charity or a garage sale.

■ Clothes that are well-cut and simple in design make strong statements.

■ Wear the right size of clothing. If an item is too loose or too tight, you can't create the right proportion. If your clothes don't fit right, have them altered.

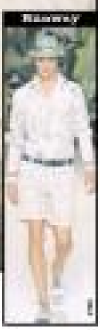
■ Dress according to your body type. Thin men can wear tight-fitting styles, while those with a bit more weight or a beer belly can't. Taller men can wear loose clothing while shorter men should wear streamlined pieces cut close to the body. And generally a man on two-button single-breasted jacket is more flattering than a double-breasted one.

■ Dress according to your age. Although there are hardly any rules and boundaries nowadays, a 40-year-old man in baggy jeans and bling is a

YOU'RE A MAN C2

Photography Alfonso Xxx; Styling Mikee Carrion + Bianca Valerio; Grooming Bianca Valerio; Model Bruce Jonas/PMAP; Runway photos from men.style.com





Mixed media

Combine different yet subtle prints and textures for a cool summer look.



Checkmate

Classic pieces such as a checkered top, jeans and a light coat look up-to-the-minute when worn with a bright-colored tie.



Belt it out!

Feeling adventurous? Wear the belt over your top. This look is only for the fashionably brave.

You're a man; package yourself



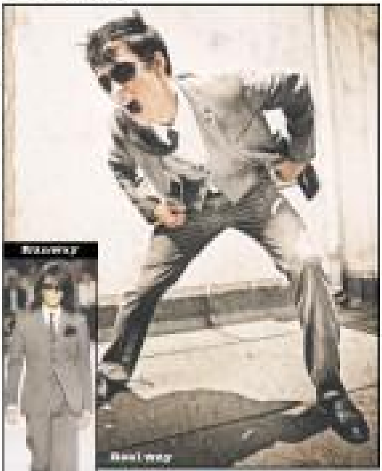
Rebel without a cause



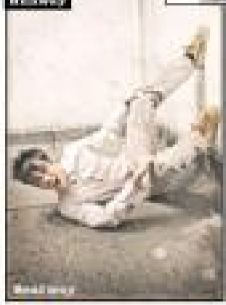
Clean cut

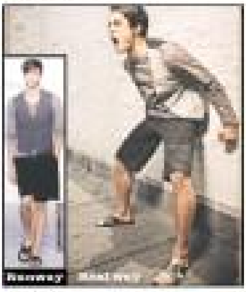


Pops of color



Puttin' on the Ritz





Vested interest

FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH FASHION FLASH

Hugo Boss goes streamlined, futuristic



HUGO Boss Spring-Summer 2009 collection at the C-5 Art Gallery in Beijing, China



ULTRA-MODERN lounge to complement a streamlined collection

Wear those prints with pride











JC de Vera newest endorser

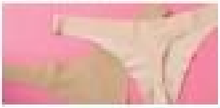




Seamless thongs to the rescue





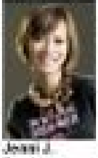




Sigalit's precious find



Mabuhay!



Jessi J. Epperson

I FIRST NOTICED THE beautiful silver accessories of Simon Sebbag at a party. Socialite Sigalit Daniel was wearing them—bangles, rings and necklaces that were so eye-catching that several guests at the party complimented her for them.

Sigalit then revealed that she was selling the pieces, and so many guests, myself included, tried them on.

Sigalit went home without any of the jewelry she was wearing earlier. No, she wasn't a victim of theft by some envious socialites. Many bought her accessories right off her skin that night! How's that for effective advertising?

That's just how irresistible Simon Sebbag's jewelry line is.

Born in Casablanca and raised in Israel, Simon grew up with an engineering background. That's the secret to the popularity of his sterling silver jewelry. The pieces are chunky but very lightweight.

In 1990, Simon's wife Denise, with a background in fashion merchandising, joined the company and helped turn it to where it is today. Every piece is handcrafted in a factory in Israel.

Simon's jewelry uses a unique electroforming process, with a wax mold created and immersed into a compound 925 sterling silver bath. The mold remains in the bath until several thick layers of silver adhere together.

The result is a light and comfortable silver piece of jewelry. Some of the pieces move on to a gold bath to be gold plated. For the final touch, the piece is hand-polished to a brilliant shine.

Sigalit first saw Simon's jewelry on a vacation in Israel. Only one shop sells his jewelry. She bought pieces for herself and her friend and business partner Carla Fengeo. They got rave comments so that they decided to bring the jewelry to Manila. They will soon bring in the European line.

In here are selected pieces from Simon Sebbag's jewelry. It is a rare occasion when accessories are such a stand-out that you hardly glance at the clothes. No wonder Sigalit comes home from parties bare-skinned.

E-mail the author at jjepperson@inquirer.com.ph.

To order, call Simon Sebbag at 0916-2420050.





LEATHER necklace with silver cross [illegible]

BEAUTY

LIFESTYLE



KNOCKOUT!



Ria Francisco-Prieto

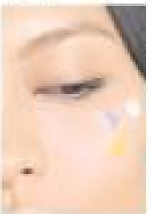
Foundation, concealer and other cover-ups

When applying it, just use your ring finger and gently pat on; never swipe

DUE TO sleepless nights lately, I have very dark circles around my eyes, and I've noticed that my skin has been blotchy and pale.

I need very good cover-ups! ...

Foundation, concealer and other cover-ups

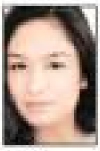




Flawless canvas

Tips

What's the right hairbrush for you?









Burn body fat in 25 minutes

You will love your more defined waist and flatter tummy after the Mesolite treatment





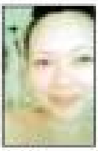
MAKEOVER 911

Convenient alternative

How to get perfect curls

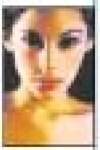






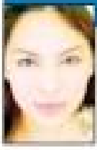


Tame those brows!





Choosing perfume for your man





She's the stylist behind Gretchen Barretto's bob



'You have great fashion designers... What you don't have is good haircut'



Short or long, versions of the Oriental locks



VARIATION of the Posh look and, below, Short & Sassy



By Claudia V. Murad
Photos by Jun Golan Pozadas

If you wear your hair in a bob, you're on the right style track as variations of Victoria Beckham's posh cut continues to be the trend for summer, according to Shunji Matsuo, L'Oreal Professionnel's style spokesperson for Asia.

[illegible]

From Posh Spice's bob to sexy long hair, everything's adaptable for the Asian look, L'Oreal's hair expert says





CLOCKWISE, from left: The Diva, Shibuya Girl, and Shunji Matsuo



[illegible]



LIFESTYLE

Bullish relaunch for iconic beauty brand

Pond's two-tier skincare brands are reintroduced via a posh lounge-spa-beauty bar

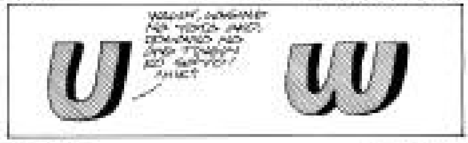
IN A COUNTRY WHERE hair care precedes skin care by a large margin among women, Pond's does ripple with its bullish relaunch of the iconic beauty brand.

The relaunch of Pond's is a global





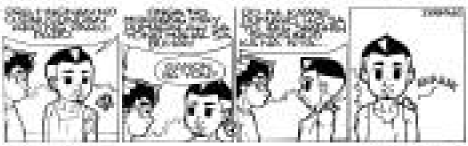




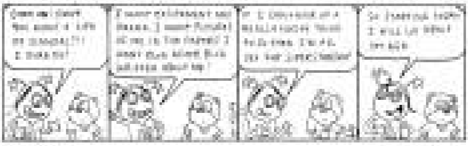


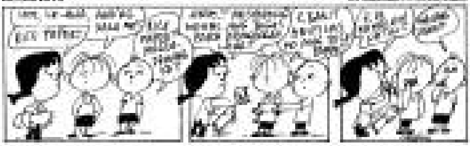


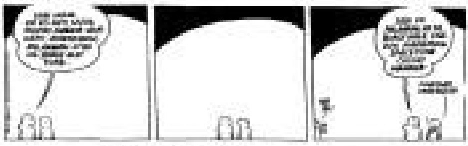






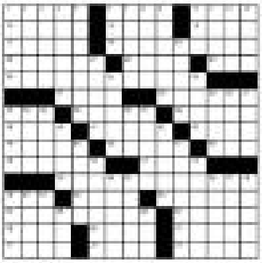


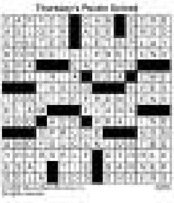






DAILY CROSSWORD





HOROSCOPE

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

	3	2			7	1		
				6		7		
			2					
8					9			
	6			3			2	
			8					5
					4			
		5		2				
		9	1			8	3	

HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU







Bullish relaunch for iconic beauty brand









Beauty's believe it or not

31 [illegible]

53 [illegible]

54 [illegible]

90 [illegible]

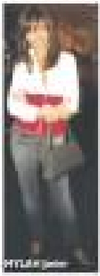
Godiva launches new Safe Sea

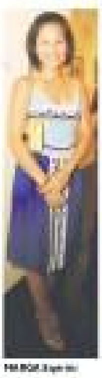


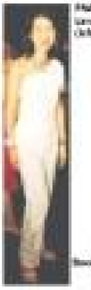


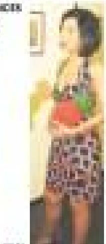
Fashion at the feast













Ping bats for—face care

He's losing his 'No. 11 wrinkles,' and that's without Botox

Softened image



Goings On

Photo journal showcases Australia's diversity

Gift for mom

Heritage fiesta in CDO

Hair Olympics winners

Speech and theater workshops

Bags for life

Treats for mothers

LIFESTYLE



Last summer (shopping) fling



[illegible]

Bonifacio High Street:

The fusion of genius design, a structure of passion

[illegible]

For more information on the services and spa packages, visit **www.thespa.com.ph**



[illegible]


FILA's dynamic duo, Cris Abad Santos A. and husband Benito Alberi


FRIAN Espinosa, Manda Lacwelline and us photographer Alex Van Hagen


INGO Zobel with Aria and Yhan Bitong


CHARLIE Carmona and Miko Toledo

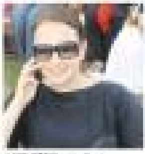

ACE SUZUKI, Irene Marcos A. and husband Greggy Araneta


MARTHA Barclay, Cultural Affairs Officer of US Embassy, and Nnamdi V. Anosike of Embassy of Nigeria


BLADE and mom Jenna Lopez


FLAMENCO maestra Clara Ramona (center) leads her dancers in a fiery number.


MINNIE Jones, Thelma Kusicka, Bambeni Almeda, Mariellen and Carol Ibanez


ACTRESS Dawn Zulueta

Society luminaries attend Fila Polo Cup

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH



Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen, using YKL Photo Solutions

[illegible]

42 Below comes to Manila

[illegible]

Exclusive BMW experience

[illegible]


BMW product trainer Herbert Grünewald (left) joined in from Germany to personally guide the participants of the BMW Driver Training. He is shown here with a Citibank Platinum cardholder.


BIG boys who love big toys. Citibank Platinum cardholders ready to test-drive the new BMW 3 series.


GORGEOUS Amanda Lopez


BEA Teh-Tan, Citibank cards business director, and BMW Philippines marketing and corporate communications director


42 BELOW'S brand ambassador Jacob Brian, Embassy Club's Erik Cua and Stephen Ko, and the man behind 42 Below's Bacardi and Grey Goose, marketing head and supervisor Rajiv Ghorumani


HYLEEN Tobias, [illegible], Chero Dizon, Raja and Vince Reyes, and 42 Below's Joe Aguilar and Mike Martinez

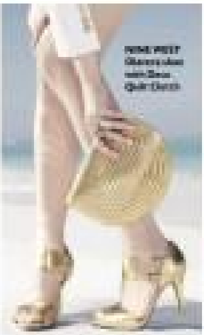

BEA Soriano, [illegible] and [illegible]


KAT Tuason Cruz, Joel Dario, EP Reyes and cap DJ Mariano Dario


LUZ Santos, [illegible], Lai Salcedo, Ito Zamora and Jun Torralaga


ROCKY David and Cornelius Fallida


CHARLES Palanca and Raj Rodriguez





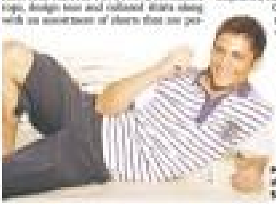


Last summer (shopping) fling







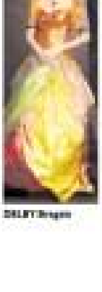


Registry for mothers



RTW label teams up with FDAP











her love
herbench/
her choice
www.benchtm.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Did You Know...

RP movie to compete in Cannes

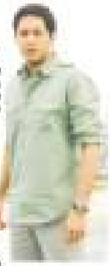


Here Tuesday, gone in a jiffy

Paolo Bediones lands 'Survivor'

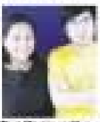
INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Host says he's ready to rough it



Cannes debut for Pinoy film

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

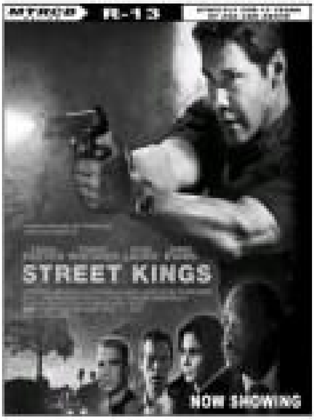



SHANG
CINEPLEX
Ironman
tickets
now available!
Opens on
April 30, 2008


GREENHILLS CINEMAS
PROMENADE


DISCOVER a wild-goose
chase all over the
ANIMAL PLANET!
STRANGE
WILDERNESS
NOW SHOWING
R-13


IRON MAN
IN THEATERS APRIL 30


R-13
STREET KINGS
NOW SHOWING


DISCOVER a wild-goose chase
all over the ANIMAL PLANET!
STRANGE
WILDERNESS
NOW SHOWING
R-13

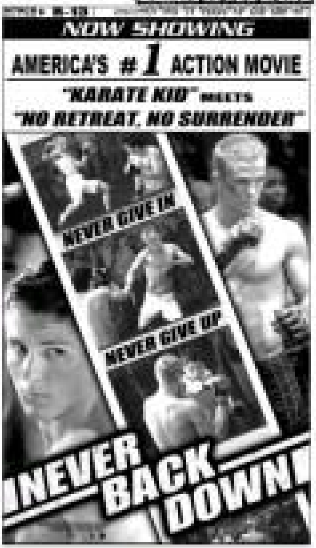

AT THE CINEMAS
AT THE MALLS
NOW SHOWING
AT GLORIETTA 4 &
GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
the
SAVAGES
earth day @ the
Ayala
Recyclables Fair
Ayala
Recyclables Fair
April 2008

'Queer Eye' winks goodbye

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'The Savages'

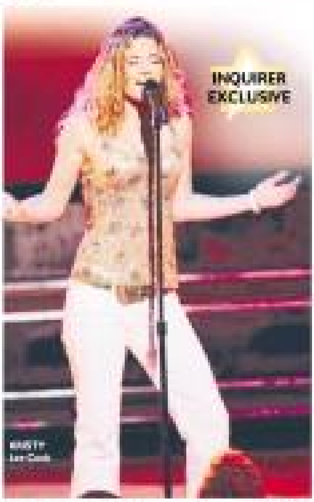




Here Tuesday...



The girl who called Cowell a 'butt'



KRISTY LEE COOK GOES down in "American Idol" history as the only finalist to have called Simon Cowell "a butt" on national television.

Country music

Plus, the best experience she's taking home from 'Idol': a marriage proposal

Paolo Bediones lands 'Survivor'



Criteria for host

Possibilities

Finally, respect: Reality TV hosts can win Emmys

CHEER FACTOR

More candidates

Cannes debut for Pinoy film



First script

Susan Sarandon talks about Imelda Marcos, Doris Duke and one scene-stealing dog

Underlying interest



Gay boyfriends

CINEMA ACCESS: 635-5555

MOVIEWORLD

ROBINSONS MOVIEWORLD CINEMA MOVIE GUIDE

GALLERIA

1 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL
2 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
3 NEVER BACK DOWN
4 PATHOLOGY
5 STRANGE WILDERNESS
6 STREET KINGS
7 MANAY PO 2
8 IndieSine: SIKIL
9 NIM'S ISLAND
10 SUPERHERO MOVIE



ERMITA

1 STRANGE WILDERNESS
2 NEVER BACK DOWN
3 PATHOLOGY
4 STREET KINGS
5 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
6 MANAY PO 2
7 SUPERHERO MOVIE
8 SHUTTER
9 88 MINUTES

METRO EAST

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 MANAY PO 2
3 STREET KINGS
4 STRANGE WILDERNESS
5 PATHOLOGY
6 NEVER BACK DOWN
7 SUPERHERO MOVIE
8 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

NOVALICHES

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 MANAY PO 2
3 STREET KINGS
4 88 MINUTES

PIONEER

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 PATHOLOGY
3 NEVER BACK DOWN
4 SUPERHERO MOVIE



a film by Ronaldo Bertubin

Exclusively at MOVIEWORLD IndieSine from April 24 to 29

STA. ROSA

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 P.S. I LOVE YOU
3 SHUTTER
4 DOOMSDAY

LIPA

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 SHUTTER
3 OVER HER DEAD BODY
4 DOOMSDAY

DASMARIÑAS

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 MANAY PO 2
3 D' WAR
4 OVER HER DEAD BODY

IMUS

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 THE POSSESSED
3 MANAY PO 2
4 STREET KINGS

ANGELES

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 MANAY PO 2
3 DOOMSDAY
4 SEMI-PRO / 88 MINUTES

TARLAC

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 DOOMSDAY
3 SOLSTICE

STARMILLS

1 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL
2 88 MINUTES
3 MANAY PO 2
4 NIM'S ISLAND
5 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
6 DOOMSDAY

BACOLOD

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 88 MINUTES
3 STEP UP 2
4 SHUTTER
5 OVER HER DEAD BODY
6 THE OTHER BOLEYN GIRL

ILOILO

1 FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
2 SHUTTER
3 88 MINUTES
4 NIM'S ISLAND
5 SEMI-PRO
6 THE AIR I BREATHE

SM CINEMA movietime

SM Cinema congratulates the winners of the "FOOL'S GOLD" WATCH-AND-WIN PROMO

Deserie Esquillo (Las Piñas)
Mary Ausena (Caloocan)
Kristine Lu (QC)
Christopher Lim (Parañaque)
Roger Coseip (Makati)
Donald Buenas (Dasmariñas Cavite)

YOU WON A TRIP FOR 2 TO BORACAY FOR 3-DAYS & 2-NIGHTS

METRO MANILA

IMAX

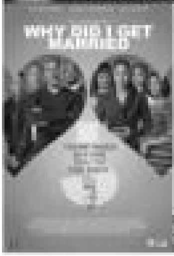
U23D
Admission Price: P300

DEEP SEA 3D
Admission Price: P250

T-REX
Admission Price: P300

FORBIDDEN KINGDOM

movietime exclusive premiere



Screening Schedules:

SM Fairview April 30
SM Cebu May 7
SM Davao May 14

LUZON

VISAYAS - MINDANAO

Susan Sarandon talks about Imelda Marcos, Doris Duke and one scene-stealing dog



ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales



Penny's pedigree

Generous, but cheap

LIVING Stars

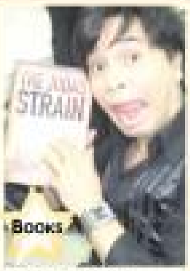
Poor use of resources



Kid-friendly Diet

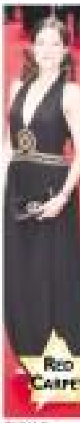




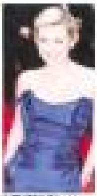


ARNELL IGNACIO

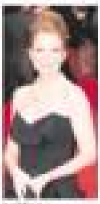
AT FIRST I DIDN'T KNOW WHO James Rollins was. I'm a regular visitor in bookstores, though, and I keep seeing entire bookshelves dedicated to him. I asked myself: Who is this writer? And why are there so many books in his section? I tried reading one and was hooked instantly. His books are enjoyable, entertaining and easy to read. Very informative, very detailed. His writing is a lot like Dan Brown's ("The Da Vinci Code"), but lighter. I bring Rollins' books everywhere, even on the set. His latest novel that I'm reading is "The Judas Strain."



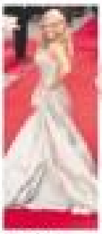
EMILIA Fox



KATHERINE Jenkins



British Academy Television Awards, London Palladium April 20



MELINDA Messenger



CHARITY Wakefield







YENG owns over 30 pairs of Chuck Taylor rubber shoes.



THE YOUNG singer spends her free time playing video games. Her Wii, Play Station and PSP are all gifts from fans. Lucky girl!

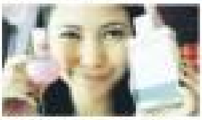
Out of the Closet



CHECKERED wrist bands are the perfect accessories for this rocker chick.



STURDY bags are not always pricey, says the bag expert.



YENG prefers Burberry when she's dressed like a lady. For days when she's just goofing around, she likes fruity scents.

Yeng, the guitar girl

By Marinel R. Cruz
Photos By Rinoy [illegible]

PINOY DREAM ACADEMY winner Yeng Constantino said she knew she had to get accustomed to wearing high-heeled shoes and dresses when she decided to join show biz.

"I know they're part of my work," she said Yeng told Living Stars during a visit to her new, [illegible] condo unit in Mandaluyong City. "I'm thankful I was given this job. I will do my best to keep it."

Yeng said that her job as a singer has helped provide for her parents and siblings.

"It's been a year since I joined PDA and won. I know my responsibilities now. I'm used to doing them," said Yeng, who recently released her second album, "Journey," under Star Records.

Clothes

I feel also ma[illegible]. I wear outfits depending on my mood. I have a favorite pair of pants. I feel really comfortable wearing it.

Bags

I bought my first Louis Vuitton bag two months ago. It's my gift to myself. It's a sling bag. Rock 'n' roll yung design. It's like a big chess board.

I also have bags that are not expensive but are equally sturdy. I've had them for a long time now. I collect canvas bags with different designs.

Musical Instruments

I really take care of my electric guitar (Barney [illegible]). I don't use it during gigs dyan ko [illegible] yung mga kanta. I only used it for the album cover of my latest CD.

My cream-colored acoustic guitar was what I used when I wrote "Salamat," the carrier single of my first album. I've had this since I was in fourth year high school.

I have yet to use my Washburn electric guitar during gigs. I first saw the design when I was surfing the Net.

Shoes

When I'm on the ASAP set, I want all my shoes organized. I share space there with a lot of artists.

I think I have a total of 30 pairs of Chuck Taylor rubber shoes. This blue pair is special to me because my fans, whom I consider my friends, gave it to me.

If you like shoes, but you're on a tight budget, just make sure you have pairs in white and black.

Accessories

I like wearing checkered wrist bands. [illegible] I also like wearing earrings and belts of the same style. I prefer this to accessories that I have to use when I wear dresses and sing ballads on "ASAP."

Video games

My Wii, Play Station and PSP are all gifts from friends. [illegible] I spend my free time playing. I also downloaded a lot of games on my laptop.

Scents

I wear perfumes depending on my mood. If I feel like just goofing around like a kid, I use a perfume that's sweet-smelling, like candy. If I'm dressed like a lady I use my Burberry.

E-mail [illegible]



THIS pair of corduroy is Yeng's all-time favorite.



A GIFT from the Yengsters, her fan group.


"STARSTRUCK" hosts/cast Jennylyn Mercado, Mark Herras, Yasmien Kurdi and Rainier Castillo.


LOUIE Ignacio got everything he wanted for the shoot.




CHILD stars Bea Binene, Elle Ramirez, Krystal Reyes and Miguel Tan Felix wait for their turn.

Flying high

SNEAK PEEK

IT ALL STARTED with a dream, says director Louie Ignacio who megged GMA Artist Center's new video and image plug.

"When I asked for a helicopter and airplane for the shoot, I didn't really expect Artist Center to give them to me," Ignacio recalled. "They really pulled out all the stops for this shoot."

Indeed, when he first relayed his concept to Living Stars over a month ago, he couldn't contain his excitement.

The finished product is really different, he gushed. "The video, which runs for three minutes and a half, has four parts and were shot on the 15th (the satellite dish), 16th (balloon scene) and 17th (helipad) floors of the GMA 7 building in Quezon City. Cinematography is by Ber Gonzales."

For the grand finale, GMAAC gathered 100 of its stars in a hangar in Plaridel, Bulacan. Ali Ferrareta, network AVP and concept head, recalled that they initially planned to shoot in a Manila airport, but had to move to Bulacan because of the sheer number of people involved.

In spite of the logistical nightmares, the two-day shoot went smoothly.

"On the second day in Bulacan, we started at 5:30 p.m. because we wanted to capture the magic hour," Ignacio related. "Even then, we wrapped up at 11 p.m. It was a breeze."

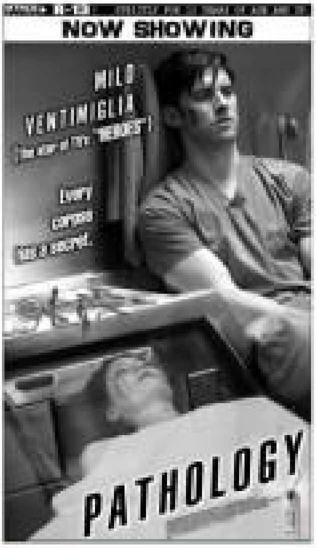
Bayani San Diego Jr.

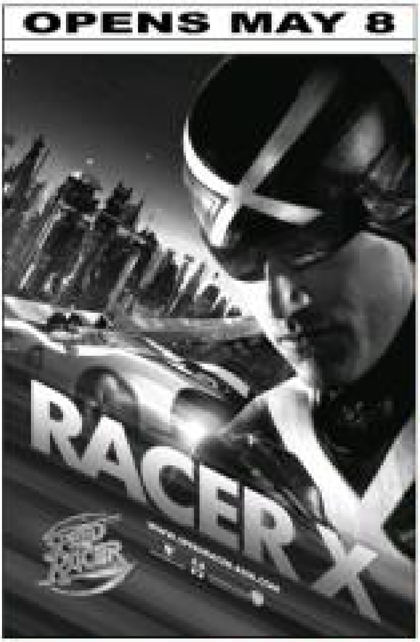
"SUGARPOP" cuts Pauleen Romero and Julie Anne San Jose have a blast playing with giant balloons.


IZA Calzado and Cheyenne Christina chat between takes.

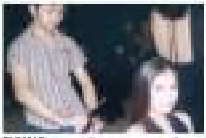


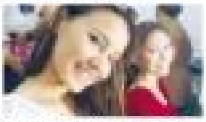







FUNNY Lawrence Gutierrez and Victor Aliwalas shoot the breeze in the holding room.


SHAAN Reeves gets her makeup prepared.


JACKIE Rice and Steph Primero get ready for their closeup.


"PINOY Pop Superstar" champs (from left) Jonalyn Viray, Maricris Garcia and Aicelle Santos do their own makeup.

